

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT: INDIAN HANDLOOMED FABRIC PRODUCTS AND INDIAN ITEMS

REF: (A) STATE 253435 (B) STATE 26015

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. FOLLOWING SINGH CALLS ON ROBINSON AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TRAVIS REED, U.S. PRESENTED NOTE ON NOVEMBER 4 TO J.N. DIXIT, MINISTER OF COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, INDIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, REQUESTING CONSULTATIONS UNDER BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS OVERSHIPMENTS AND UNDUE CONCENTRATION IN GROUP II. U.S. SAID THAT U.S. WAS NOT AT THIS TIME REQUESTING SPECIAL EFFORT FROM CUSTOMS TO ENFORCE AGREEMENT DEFINITIONS RESPECTING HANDLOOMS, BUT
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THAT CUSTOMS WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY STANDING DEFINITIONS

TO ANY SHIPMENT CHECKED. (TEXT OF NOTE BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL) DIXIT RESPONDED THAT SINGH RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY REED OF COMMERCE THAT U.S. WOULD NOT ACCELERATE ENFORCEMENT OF AGREEMENT RESPECTING HANDLOOMS AND WERE CONCERNED ABOUT SOME ACTIONS OF LOCAL CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES. IN ADDITION, DIXIT STRESSED NEED FOR U.S. REPS TO SEE COTTAGE INDUSTRY IN ACTION AND EXTENDED INVITATION TO VISIT INDIA.

2. U.S. MET AGAIN WITH DIXIT ON NOVEMBER 6. DIXIT INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF, IF NOT AGREEMENT WITH, HIS NEED TO ENFORCE U.S. HANDLOOM DEFINITION. HOWEVER, U.S. PRESSED TO ACCEPT GOI INVITATIONS FOR VISIT, STATING FAILURE TO SEND TEAM MIGHT LEAD GOI TO BELIEVE U.S. UNSYMPATHETIC TO INDIAN PROBLEM.

3. U.S. REPS THANKED DIXIT FOR CONVEYING INVITATIONS TO VISIT INDIA, BUT EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ABOUT USEFULNESS OF VISIT IN RESOLVING CURRENT PROBLEM. U.S. STRESSED THAT INDIA'S BEST INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY EARLY CONSULTATIONS TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND SAID U.S. COULD MEET AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER 17 IN WASHINGTON. DIXIT WELCOMED U.S. SUGGESTION AND SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND IT BE ACCEPTED BY GOI, WITH UNDERSTANDING U.S. WILL KEEP INVITATION TO VISIT COTTAGE INDUSTRY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. DIXIT ASKED THAT EMBASSY DELHI SUPPORT NOVEMBER 17 CONSULTATIONS WITH GOI IN WASHINGTON. REQUEST EMBASSY PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT. KISSINGER

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